



# SEMA News

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency

*Preparedness · Response · Recovery*

Fall

2016

## Exercise Tests Plans for Evacuating, Caring for Earthquake Victims



Volunteers simulate providing medical care in Independence during the 2016 Show-Me Mass Care Exercise, Aug. 22-24.

From Aug. 22-24, more than 1,000 responders, emergency managers and members of the general public took part in a first-of-its-kind earthquake exercise conducted in several locations across Missouri.

The 2016 Show-Me Mass Care Exercise, part of FEMA's National Exercise Series, is held in a different state each year. This was the fifth in the series and the first held in a non-coastal region.

The exercise was designed to test local, state and federal plans for evacuating and providing mass care for large populations during a catastrophic disaster. The exercise concluded with a hotwash on Aug. 25.

To test mass evacuation and care elements of the New Madrid Seismic Zone plan, the exercise scenario was based on a 7.7-magnitude earthquake. Unlike other exercises that begin with the immediate response, this exercise picked up three days after the earthquake, allowing participants to focus on issues related to mass evacuation and care.

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## Partnership Key to Assisting Three Missouri Communities During Water Outage

Amid triple-digit temperatures and high humidity, on Friday, July 22, residents in and around three northwest Missouri communities lost their running water.

Earlier that morning, Public Water Supply District No. 1 of Daviess County had experienced a malfunction in the water line that supplies drinking water to Altamont, Weatherby and Winston. The problem was created when a valve malfunctioned and drained up to four days of stored water out of each town's water tower, leaving more than 500 area residents without fresh water. With high heat indexes triggering National Weather Service excessive heat warnings, a lack of safe drinking water could have created a serious health risk for many affected residents, especially senior adults and other at-risk community members.

When it became clear the problem could not be fixed quickly, DeKalb County Clerk Missy Meek contacted SEMA Region H Coordinator Corey Sloan for assistance. SEMA's Emergency Human Services staff reached out to emergency response and recovery partner Convoy of Hope.

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## Director's Letter

**"One of the foundational aspects of emergency management, which we emphasize here at SEMA, is building strong partnerships at every level, both inside and outside government."**

**Ron Walker**

One of the foundational aspects of emergency management, which we emphasize here at SEMA, is building strong partnerships at every level, both inside and outside government. The importance of partnerships was really driven home for me during the Show-Me Mass Care 2016 exercise held Aug. 22-24.

As you know, the mass care exercise, based on a 7.7-magnitude New Madrid earthquake scenario, was designed to test plans for evacuating and caring for hundreds of thousands of Missourians who could be impacted by a powerful earthquake.

It took great relationships at the local, state and federal levels and with public and private partners to successfully plan, launch and manage such a large effort. The exercise made clear how heavily we all would depend on our partners to survive and recover from a high-intensity earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone.

### ONE-MISSOURI APPROACH

It also made clear how strongly invested all regions of our state are in assisting other regions that are in need. This was demonstrated most recently in the Joplin tornado response of 2011. In a real-life catastrophic event, hundreds of people and response agencies from across Missouri rushed to assist in Joplin's time of need. Show-Me Mass Care was merely an exercise that would most directly affect Region E, yet other regions of Missouri participated with the type of enthusiasm and determination that you'd expect if this "earthquake" had hit in their home communities.

This enthusiasm included community volunteers who played the roles of evacuees in Poplar Bluff, Sedalia, Diggins and Jackson County. In Jackson County, more than 500 citizens took part in a sheltering exercise! The people of Missouri truly showed me they are interested in preparedness and would come to the aid of their fellow Missourians.

The fact that Italy had been hit by a deadly 6.2-magnitude earthquake on Aug. 24, before the third day of the exercise, led to increased media coverage and therefore greater public attention to the earthquake risk, our planning, the exercise and the opportunity for the public to make their own preparations.

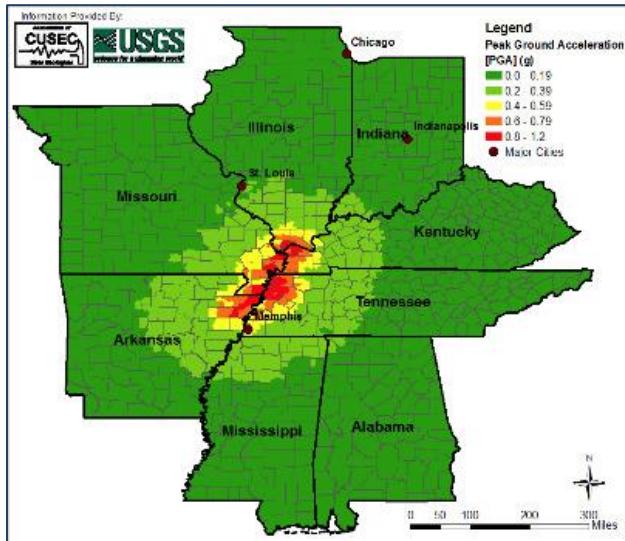
I want to thank everyone on the exercise planning teams who worked for nearly a year with local, state and federal partners to make the exercise happen. I consider it a great success and a valuable experience. I also want to thank the hundreds of players, controllers, evaluators and other support personnel who took part in the exercise, as well as the many volunteers across the state who invested their time to make it a successful exercise.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The mass care exercise gave Missouri's emergency management community a prime opportunity to test some of our earthquake response plans. Coming up on Oct. 20, the public will have a chance to focus on their own earthquake preparedness during the 2016 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut drill. I hope your communities will join the more than 420,000 Missourians who have already registered for this year's ShakeOut. It's a great opportunity to emphasize how important it is for citizens to learn about and prepare for all kinds of emergencies, not just earthquakes. More details, including how to register for ShakeOut participation, can be found in this issue of **SEMA News** and on the SEMA website under Upcoming Events.

**Ron Walker, Director  
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency**

## New Madrid Earthquake Impact by the Numbers



The 2016 National Mass Care Exercise was based on a scenario in which a 7.7-magnitude earthquake occurs in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) in southeast Missouri. Though tremors are common, a high-intensity, destructive earthquake has not occurred in the NMSZ since the historic quakes and aftershocks in 1811 and 1812. The initial earthquake was an estimated 7.5-magnitude or higher, followed by a second one of about 7.4-magnitude.

To adequately prepare for such a massive disaster, local, state and federal emergency managers have to understand the devastation that could occur. For this they rely on best-available impact estimates provided by seismologists and other experts.

Beginning immediately after the earthquake, different levels of medical care could be needed for more than 90,000 injured, and disaster mortuary services for more than 4,500 fatalities. According to current estimates, more than 840,000 Missourians could be displaced, with nearly 240,000 requiring emergency shelter. In addition, as many as 130,000 pets could be left homeless (The capability of sheltering pets has been shown to be a key factor in getting many pet owners to leave unsafe housing after disasters).

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## Drop, Cover, and Hold On During Annual ShakeOut Earthquake Drill Oct. 20

Hundreds of thousands of Missourians and millions of people worldwide will simultaneously participate in the 2016 ShakeOut at 10:20 a.m. on Oct. 20. The annual earthquake drill is an opportunity to practice the three steps to stay safer during an earthquake: Drop, Cover and Hold On.

- **DROP** to the ground before the earthquake drops you;
- Take **COVER** under a nearby desk or table;
- **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops, to protect against falling objects.

"The ShakeOut Drill takes a couple of minutes, but could potentially prevent injuries or even save your life," said SEMA Director Ron Walker.

"Earthquakes occur without warning, so folks need to know what to do in advance."

To register and for more information, go to [shakeout.org/centralus](http://shakeout.org/centralus).

Southeast Missouri is at the center of the New Madrid Seismic Zone, where about 200 earthquakes occur each year (most too small to be felt). Some of the largest earthquakes in U.S. history occurred here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and scientists say more big ones could occur in the future, so practicing earthquake safety measures regularly is key to staying safe. Most injuries sustained during earthquakes in developed countries like the U.S. come from falling debris, which is why the Drop, Cover, Hold On technique is important.

Follow Missouri's ShakeOut and other earthquake information on Facebook at [facebook.com/MissouriShakeOut](https://facebook.com/MissouriShakeOut), and on Twitter at @MOShakeOut. Learn more about earthquake preparedness at [sema.dps.mo.gov](http://sema.dps.mo.gov).



## Emergency Management Region Profile: Region I

Region I is located in central Missouri and comprises Crawford, Dent, Laclede, Maries, Phelps and Pulaski counties. With an area of just over 4,000 square miles, Region I is the smallest of the state's nine emergency management regions. The region's population is about 180,000.

The region is home to Ft. Leonard Wood in Pulaski County, a U.S. Army training installation with approximately 15,000 troops and civilians on post. The post provides basic combat training, as well as Army engineer, military police, chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear (CBRN), and military transport schools.

The Missouri University of Science and Technology is located in Rolla and has an average annual enrollment of about 9,000 students.

Five hospitals serve the region and surrounding area: Salem Memorial District Hospital, Phelps County Regional Hospital in Rolla, Mercy Hospital Lebanon, Missouri Baptist Hospital in Sullivan and Ft. Leonard Wood Army Hospital.

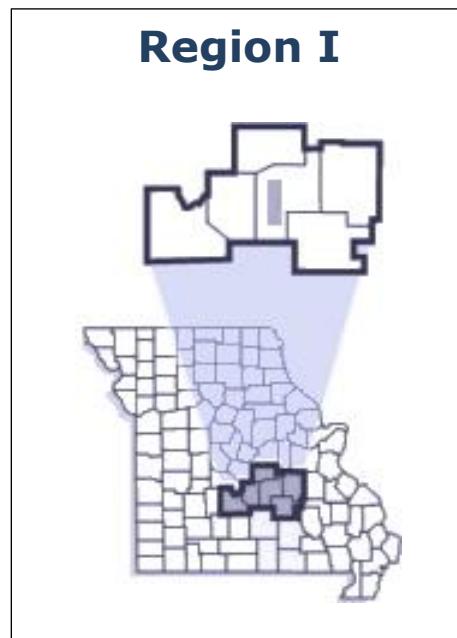
Two major highways cross the region: Interstate 44, and U.S. Highway 63. A highly traveled passenger and freight corridor, more than 25,000 vehicles travel I-44 daily. One Class I rail line, operated by Burlington Northern Santa Fe, passes through the region.

Located in the eastern Ozarks, Region I draws hundreds of thousands of outdoor enthusiasts to the area's spring-fed rivers, hiking trails and parks. The Niangua, Gasconade, Big Piney, Meramec and Current rivers run through the region, and Bennett Spring, Montauk and Onondaga state parks are also located there.

## Region I Emergency Management Directors

### Rodney Neff, City of Cuba

Rodney Neff is EMD for the city of Cuba, a part-time position he has held for four years. He also works in retail. Neff has also worked as a volunteer firefighter and in the meteorology field.



Neff says one of the greatest challenges he faces as an EMD is bridging communications gaps between the public and emergency management.

He says the most rewarding aspect of his work is seeing different emergency management partners cooperating to strengthen local public safety and emergency preparedness.

Neff is a lifetime resident of Cuba.

### Sandy Potere North, Phelps County

Sandy North has served as Phelps County EMD since September 2009. She also works as an investigator for the Phelps County prosecutor's office.

Previously, North served with the Missouri National Guard as a helicopter mechanic and as a firefighter and EMT with the Rolla Rural Fire Department and the Western Taney County Fire District. She has also worked as a narcotics officer with the Taney County Sheriff's Department and as an officer with the Phelps County Sheriff's Department. She still serves as a reserve deputy with the department.

According to North, one of her biggest challenges as EMD is educating people about emergency management, the community's role in emergency preparedness and the resources available to them.

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## Region I Emergency Management Directors

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North says the most rewarding parts of the job are working closely with other emergency management professionals and the opportunity to work closely with the communities she serves.

North and her husband, Ed, live in Phelps County.

### **Matt Griggs, City of Rolla**

Matt Griggs has served as EMD for the city of Rolla for 18 months. He also works full-time as captain for the Rolla Fire and Rescue Department. He is a 25-year veteran of the fire service.

Griggs has one adult daughter, Sara.

### **Randy Rowe, Laclede County**

Randy Rowe has served as Laclede County EMD for nearly five years and is Region I's only full-time EMD. Prior to joining the county, he worked for 12 years for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, where he attained the rank of vice captain.

Rowe holds an associate's degree in criminal justice and is a POST-licensed peace officer. He is also a certified trainer in active shooter response, swift water rescue, church security and crisis response, concealed handgun and unarmed self-defense.

Rowe says the most challenging aspect of serving as EMD is learning about grant funding and staying abreast of program changes.

Rowe says he thoroughly enjoys serving as EMD and that every aspect of his work is rewarding.

Rowe and his wife, Janet, have two daughters and three grandchildren.

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Use the subject "**SEMA News**."

## July Storms Show Power, Danger of Straight-Line Winds



A grain elevator in Atchison County damaged during a severe storm on July 7.

When it comes to National Weather Service warnings, tornadoes and flash flooding grab the most attention. But severe thunderstorms can cause tremendous damage and prove deadly; particularly at risk are people in mobile homes.

According to the NWS, some storms can produce straight-line winds with velocities and destructive power similar to a small tornado. That was the case on July 7 when severe thunderstorms swept through Missouri. Powerful straight-line winds knocked down trees and power lines across a wide area, leaving more than 60,000 without power in the Kansas City and central Missouri areas.

Just a week later, another round of severe storms struck, this time on the state's eastern side. On July 13, thunderstorms producing wind gusts over 70 miles per hour pushed trees over onto homes, vehicles and across power lines. The powerful winds also peeled away roofs and damaged farm buildings and grain bins. Nearly 80,000 people in the St. Louis area and over 20,000 in nearby counties lost power during the storms.

"This event was a classic case of what a strong line of thunderstorms can do," said Jim Kramper, NWS St. Louis Forecast Office warning coordination meteorologist. "Wind gusts of 70 miles per hour can cause damage that looks very similar to a small tornado and put people at risk of severe injury or death if they don't seek shelter. That's why we continually tell people when a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, at least get inside a sturdy structure to protect yourself from the wind."

## Billboards Help Spread NWS Safety Messages



A billboard showing the "Beat the Heat" message in Springfield.

Beginning with an extremely hot spell this June, many motorists in the Springfield and Joplin areas saw "Beat the Heat, Check the Backseat" messages flashing from digital billboards around town. It's part of an effort by Lamar Advertising to incorporate weather safety messages into the rotation of its digital boards when weather presents a hazard.

"We started meeting with NWS-NOAA last summer. The copy message is initiated only when there are weather warnings – tornado, heat, flood, etc.," says Eric Worden, vice president of Lamar Advertising in Springfield and Joplin.

The Weather Service's Springfield office now has the ability to load its own artwork onto the billboards, along with its message. "Beat the Heat, Check the Backseat" is part of a nationwide NWS campaign.

"NWS Springfield is appreciative of this opportunity and support from Lamar Advertising to display information about life-threatening conditions on their electronic billboards," said NWS Meteorologist Mike Griffin, who initiated the project. "It is fantastic to be able to directly tell drivers that something hazardous is occurring and maximize their ability to make good decisions. Together we are building a Weather-Ready Nation."

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## DHS Issues Second Terrorism Advisory Bulletin After Orlando Terror Attack

On June 15, three days after the terrorist attack in Orlando, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued its second National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin. The new bulletin did not change the basic assessment of the first bulletin, which was to expire on June 16, but stated:

"In this environment, we are particularly concerned about homegrown violent extremists who could strike with little or no notice. The tragic events of Orlando several days ago reinforce this. Accordingly, increased public vigilance and awareness continue to be of utmost importance."

The NTAS is designed to more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public. It is a refinement of the updated system put in place in 2011, which dropped the old color-coded alerts of the original Homeland Security Advisory System.

The June 15 one-page bulletin is available at: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/ntas/alerts/16\\_0615\\_NTAS\\_bulletin.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/ntas/alerts/16_0615_NTAS_bulletin.pdf).

### NTAS ALERTS

When it was launched, NTAS featured an advisory system that consisted of two types of alerts: "elevated" and "imminent." An elevated alert is intended to warn of a credible terrorist threat against the U.S. and its territories that is general in both timing and potential location such. Therefore, it is reasonable to recommend implementation of protective measures to thwart or mitigate against an attack.

An imminent alert would warn of a credible, specific and impending terrorist threat or on-going attack. DHS says it has continuously evaluated intelligence threat streams through the NTAS process since the system's creation, but it has never issued an alert, because neither the circumstances nor threat streams have risen to the alert threshold.

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## False Alarm Draws Attention to Communication about Exercises

 **Mark Knoller** @markknoller · 2h  
All clear at Andrews. Apparently someone didn't get the notice about the "active shooter" exercise this morning.

**Joint Base Andrews** @JBA\_NAFW  
"All Clear." The lock down on base has been lifted

36 21 ...

News reports about a lockdown at Joint Air Base Andrews spread around the globe on June 29. First they were about an active shooter situation at the base that is home to Air Force One. Then the reports turned to speculation that preparations for a “no-notice” active shooter exercise at the base had led to the erroneous reports and widespread confusion at the base. Andrews is also home to multiple military units and thousands of personnel.

Officials placed the base on full lockdown and ordered everyone to follow established active shooter protocols, including sheltering in place.

Law enforcement personnel reportedly streamed across the facility, cable news networks carried live updates and a trip from the base by Vice President Joe Biden was delayed. By 10:40 a.m. a room-by-room security sweep of the entire facility had been completed and authorities announced an “all clear” around 11:30 a.m.

The incident put into focus the importance of clearly communicating with partners and stakeholders before and during emergency response exercises, and why so much attention is given to repeatedly stating “exercise, exercise” in verbal and written communications.

“Taking extra steps like adding ‘THIS IS AN EXERCISE’ at the top of all related emails and other documents and using similar phrases in all exercise radio and phone conversations helps limit potentially dangerous confusion during exercises,” said SEMA Training and Exercise Program Manager Nick Goeke.

Andrews officials initially issued a statement saying they were to hold a simulated active shooter drill at the base. Later, they said the drill was to be held at a different part of the base and that the confusion was not related to the drill.

## SEMA, Missouri Guard Exercise Emergency Relocation Plans



**SEMA Deputy Director Dawn Warren (center)** and technical staff use WebEOC to monitor the June 23 exercise from the Missouri State Highway Patrol headquarters.

On June 23, SEMA and the Missouri National Guard conducted related functional exercises to test their continuity of operations plans. Both exercises used the same scenario: a tornado touches down outside of Jefferson City, destroying several homes and significantly damaging other buildings in the area, including the Ike Skelton Training Site administration building. Because the building is deemed unsafe, SEMA and the Guard must move staff and support resources to alternate locations and set up emergency response operations.

The exercises focused on the logistics of moving a large number of staff to a predetermined alternate location, setting up crucial communications and computer systems and conducting emergency response efforts if ISTS – headquarters for both groups – is ever rendered unsafe.

During SEMA’s exercise, a core group of command and general staff moved to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Headquarters in Jefferson City, where they coordinated the exercise and worked to identify potential challenges SEMA could face if forced to operate from a secondary emergency operations center. SEMA employees and key state response partners received an email exercise notification with instructions to sign into WebEOC by emergency support function (ESF), submit a list of available response staff and provide estimated times of their arrival at the secondary location.

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## 2016 Show-Me Mass Care Exercise

(Continued from page 1)

The exercise comprised several exercises, ranging from tabletop events to full-scale drills, conducted around the state. Following is a brief summary of the different exercises that together made up the 2016 Show-Me Mass Care Exercise.

### FRONTLINE EVACUATION ASSISTANCE

On Aug. 22, emergency managers and key response and recovery partners in Poplar Bluff and St. Louis addressed mass evacuation and care concepts known as consolidated assistance sites (CAS) and evacuee assembly sites (EAS), the first two steps in evacuating disaster survivors across the state.

In Poplar Bluff, approximately 150 members of the public helped emergency managers conduct a full-scale exercise of a CAS site. CAS locations are positioned along priority disaster evacuation routes and are the first sites where evacuees' needs can be more fully assessed. They provide medical services, mortuary services and basics like food and water.

During the exercise, participants practiced assessing the needs of volunteers pretending to be evacuees, including providing simulated medical care to those who arrived at the CAS with injuries. Volunteers with the Missouri Humane Society also practiced setting up a disaster pet shelter, which would help care for some of the potentially thousands of pets left homeless during an earthquake.

In St. Louis, about 50 participants gathered to conduct a tabletop exercise focused on EAS planning. EAS locations are where disaster survivors and pets are formally registered. The information can assist with reunification later. Evacuees can also receive further medical attention, as well as food and water. People who need transportation can board buses and other vehicles available for evacuation.

The St. Louis exercise included a discussion of the four pre-identified EAS sites and development of plans for site operations, logistics, staffing, transportation, safety and security during a disaster.

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## Partnerships Key During Water Outage

(Continued from page 1)



**Convoy of Hope delivers bottled water during a water outage in Daviess County, July 24. Photo by Teresa Stanley.**

On Sunday, July 24, about the same time a boil order was being issued for the affected area, a Convoy of Hope tractor trailer delivered a full load of bottled water to distribution centers in Altamont, Winston and Weatherby, followed by a second delivery on Tuesday. Local volunteers helped deliver cases of bottled water to people in rural areas and to anyone who was unable to travel to a distribution center.

By Tuesday night, Convoy of Hope had provided more than 80,000 bottles of free drinking water to the area. The donated bottled water provided residents in the affected area with enough fresh drinking water to last until the water system problem was fully resolved and the boil order lifted more than two weeks later, on Aug. 9.

As SEMA continued to work with Convoy of Hope, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources worked to address the problem at PWS #1 that led to the failure. The Missouri Rural Water Association also became involved as issues persisted, including prolonged boil orders for some customers. DNR's involvement included testing water samples in the state lab.

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## New Madrid Earthquake by the Numbers

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To provide basic care for displaced persons, nearly 2.8 million liters of drinking water and as many as 1.8 million meals would be needed in the immediate aftermath.

A major New Madrid earthquake would also have a staggering effect on buildings and infrastructure in the 22 counties that comprise Missouri's primary earthquake impact zone. The counties are: St. Charles, St. Louis, Jefferson, St. Genevieve, St. Francois, Perry, Iron, Madison, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Reynolds, Wayne, Stoddard, Scott, Mississippi, Oregon, Ripley, Butler, New Madrid, Dunklin, Pemiscot and Carter. The independent city of St. Louis is also included in this zone. A secondary impact zone includes another 25 eastern and northeastern Missouri counties.

Experts estimate that in Missouri nearly 90,000 buildings could sustain damage and more than 40,000 could be destroyed, including seven hospitals, 70 fire stations and more than 130 schools, and as many as 30 airports. Other infrastructure potentially destroyed in the earthquake could include more than 1,000 bridges, six dams, 25 levees and nearly 30 hazardous material facilities. This destruction would create up to 6.5 million tons of brick, wood, steel, concrete and other types of debris, all of which could take months to clean up and years to recover and rebuild. The cost for damage and economic losses could approach \$50 billion.

Because of Memphis' proximity to the center of the NMSZ, the state of Tennessee could be the hardest hit of any state. Estimates are Tennessee could see over a quarter of a million buildings damaged, more than 30,000 people injured and up to \$70 billion in total damage and economic losses. Other states likely to sustain major include Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Mississippi.

For information on earthquake preparedness, go to [www.sema.mo.gov](http://www.sema.mo.gov) and click on *Earthquakes* under the *Plan & Prepare* tab.

## Billboards Help Spread NWS Safety Messages

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### Hot Vehicle Safety

- Never leave a child, senior or disabled person unattended in a vehicle – not even for a minute.
- Be sure all occupants leave the vehicle when unloading. Don't overlook sleeping babies.
- Call 9-1-1 if you see a child unattended in a hot vehicle.
- Always lock your car and ensure children do not have access to keys or remote entry devices. If a child is missing, check the car first, including the trunk. Teach children that vehicles are never to be used as a play area.
- Keep a stuffed animal in the car seat and when the child is put in the seat, place the animal in front with the driver. Or, place your purse or briefcase in the back seat as a reminder that you have a child in the vehicle.
- Make "look before you leave" a routine every time you get out of the vehicle.
- Have a plan that your childcare provider will call you if your child is not dropped off.
- Remember that pets should never be left in a vehicle during the summer months, even with windows lowered a few inches.

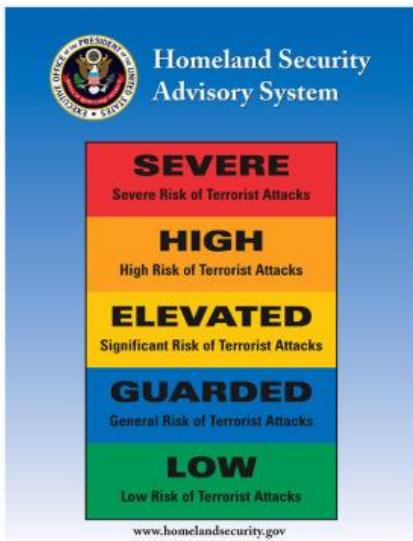
On average, 37 children die each year from heat-related deaths after being trapped inside vehicles. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash-related fatalities for children 14 and younger.

A vehicle's interior acts like a greenhouse where hot air is trapped and the temperature rapidly increases. Actual temperatures inside a vehicle can reach 120°F in minutes and approach 150°F in as little as an hour. This can cause heat stroke in only minutes, particularly in children, disabled and senior adults and pets, whose bodies are much more sensitive to heat than healthy adults.

To help bring awareness to this issue, the Weather Service is using the slogan "Beat the Heat, Check the Backseat" to remind people to check for small children in a car seat and to never leave children unattended in a vehicle – even for a few moments.

## DHS Issues Second Terrorism Advisory Bulletin After Orlando Terror Attack

(Continued from page 6)



Former NSAS color-coded system replaced by NTAS bulletins and alerts.

In an ongoing effort to more effectively and quickly communicate information to the public and partner agencies about terrorism threats, DHS conducted a review of the NTAS. Based on this review, DHS added the NTAS bulletin.

### NTAS BULLETINS

With the introduction of NTAS bulletins, the system now features two types of advisories: bulletins and alerts. NTAS bulletins will provide information about broader or more general trends and current developments regarding terrorism threats. For example, bulletins can be issued in situations where additional precautions may be warranted, but where the circumstances do not justify an elevated or imminent alert. An NTAS bulletin will summarize the issue and why it is important for public awareness, outline U.S. counterterrorism efforts and recommend ways the public can help.

More information about the NTAS is available on the DHS website at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

## SEMA, Missouri Guard Exercise Emergency Relocation Plans

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The SEMA exercise was terminated when all ESFs had successfully completed their tasks using WebEOC.

The Guard's emergency relocation exercise included about 100 guardsmen who were notified of the exercise and sent to an alternate location at Fort Leonard Wood with orders to set up a fully functioning joint operations center. Similar to SEMA's exercise, the Guard's objective was to test its ability to quickly and safely move emergency operations staff and equipment to and operate from an alternate location on very short notice.

"Continuity of operations planning is such an important part of our overall effort," said SEMA Director Ron Walker. "We could lose the use of our office building at any time, so we have to plan for that possibility. This exercise helped us identify some of the issues we could face if we ever have to set up emergency operations at a different site."

### Winter Weather Awareness Day

• • •

**November 16, 2016**

Winter storms can be dangerous, even deadly. Take time on Nov. 16 to make sure you're prepared! Go to [www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov) to learn how. Here's a sample of what you'll find.

### Creating a Winter Car Emergency Kit

- Windshield scraper and small broom
- Flashlight
- Blanket
- Spare radio with batteries
- Water
- Snacks or energy-type food
- Jumper cables
- Flares or fluorescent distress flag
- Shovel
- Sand or shingles to give tires traction
- Extra hats, socks and gloves
- First aid kit

## 2016 Show-Me Mass Care Exercise

(Continued from page 8)

Participants included representatives from the Missouri Department of Transportation and the St. Louis Metro Transit Authority, as well as from the public health and healthcare fields and non-government agencies.

### MEETING NEEDS ALONG THE WAY

In what will serve as Missouri's central evacuation corridor after an earthquake, emergency management partners used a combination of tabletop and full-scale exercises to test a concept called emergency respite sites (ERS). These sites are designed to provide transition services to disaster evacuees who are traveling across the state to more long-term shelter locations.

After a disaster, ERS locations provide evacuees access to restrooms, water and snacks, as well as fuel and basic auto repairs and short-term rest before they move on to their destinations.

An ERS was activated in Sedalia at the state fairgrounds on Aug. 23, where about 50 vehicles driven by volunteers passed through the site and were attended to by exercise participants. This process simulated survivors evacuating westward from the earthquake impact zone. Some of the volunteers pretended to need medical attention and were treated by team members of the Missouri Disaster Emergency Response System.

### SHELTERS AND IN-DEPTH CARE

According to Missouri's earthquake plan, after a New Madrid earthquake, emergency management partners on the state's western side will provide two other types of central locations where evacuees can receive assistance. These are evacuee reception centers (ERC) and multi-agency coordination centers (MAC).

ERCs provide further needs assessment and assistance with identifying appropriate shelter according to evacuee needs. Also available are hot meals, further medical and psychological care, reunification services and pet sheltering. MACs serve as central locations for information about and access to non-government and private-sector resources.

(Continued on next page)

## Partnerships Key During Water Outage

(Continued from page 8)



Volunteers unload bottled water from a Convoy of Hope trailer during a water outage in Daviess County, July 24. Photo by Teresa Stanley.

"This was a great example of how important partnerships are in emergency management and how we depend on our partners to help Missourians in need," said Deb Hendricks, SEMA statewide volunteer coordinator. "During emergencies, SEMA provides resource and service coordination, but it's our local, state, faith-based, volunteer and private partners who make sure impacted communities get what they need when they need it."

Headquartered in Springfield, Convoy of Hope is a faith-based international aid organization. Its Disaster Service program provides crucial assistance to disaster survivors around the world, working with faith-based and other organizations to distribute food, water, emergency supplies and other necessities to communities impacted by disasters.

## SEMA News

is the newsletter of the  
Missouri State  
Emergency Management Agency

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## 2016 Show-Me Mass Care Exercise

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Volunteers practice registering earthquake evacuees at an emergency reception center in Independence during the 2016 Show-Me Mass Care Exercise, Aug. 22-24.

On Aug. 24, two full-scale exercises were held in Jackson County. One exercise was held in Independence and focused on ERC and mass shelter operations, including a pet shelter, while a second event was held in Kansas City and involved setting up and operating a MAC. Together these two exercises involved more than 500 volunteers.

Another full-scale ERC exercise was conducted in Diggins near Springfield and included more than 100 volunteers from across the region. The exercise focused on developing effective processes for receiving, assessing and meeting evacuees' needs. Evacuee role players arrived at the site with a variety of realistic needs that ERC staff would have to address in a real event. Following cues from profile cards assigned to them before the exercise, evacuees sought assistance with locating lost family members, arranging long-term shelter accommodations for themselves and their pets and medical attention for different non-life-threatening injuries.

### SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

Exercise activity at SEMA focused on the emergency support functions covering mass care, medical services and public and mental health and involved up to 150 participants each day. Included were representatives from the Missouri departments of Transportation, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Mental Health, Health and Senior

Services, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri National Guard and SEMA, along with the Mid-America Regional Council and the Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (MO VOAD).

Also working throughout the exercise were national-level planning task forces responsible for addressing overarching disaster response components including feeding, sheltering, distribution of emergency supplies, and reunification.

### PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Also involved in different aspects of the mass care exercise were national, state and local representatives from Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, the Missouri Interfaith Disaster Response, the Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery and the Missouri Humane Society.

Also participating in or observing the exercise were mass care staff from seven other states: Arkansas, Iowa, Florida, Nevada, Utah, Pennsylvania and Texas. Staff from six FEMA regions and representatives from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were also involved.

Over the next few months, FEMA will work with state and local officials to compile and finalize key findings from the exercise. This information will be used to update and improve the New Madrid Seismic Zone plan, the comprehensive guide for responding to a catastrophic earthquake in the NMSZ.

This process began with a hot wash on Aug. 25 at SEMA headquarters. The general consensus was the exercise was useful and should assist in the development of best practices going forward.

